

REMARKS

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 11-19, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter; and allows claims 9, 10, 20, and 23. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

By the present amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 8, 11, 21, and 22 to improve form and add new claims 24-40. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 1-40 are pending.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 9, 10, 20, and 23 are allowable over the art of record. New claims 24-40 have been added to depend from claims 9, 10, and 20. Applicants submit that these new claims are allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons that claims 9, 10, and 20 are allowable over the art of record.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT NOT CONSIDERED

As pointed out in Applicants' responses, filed January 16, 2003 and June 24, 2003, Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on September 24, 2001 that included four documents. One of the documents submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement, namely D. Koller and M. Sahami, "Hierarchically Classifying Documents Using Very Few Words," International Conference on Machine Learning, 1997, pp. 170-178, was not properly considered. Applicants again request that this document be properly considered and that the attached Form-1449 be initialed and returned to Applicants.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-8, 11-19, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Although Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 11, and 21 herewith in an attempt to expedite prosecution. Applicants submit that these claims are now clearly directed to statutory subject matter.

For example, claim 1 now recites that the method is implemented by a computer device. Claim 8 recites a computer device. Claim 11 recites using the editorial opinion parameter, via a computer device, to alter a ranking of a list of objects retrieved in response to a query. Claim 21 recites at least one processor configured to use the data structure to rank objects retrieved in response to a query. Claims 1, 8, 11, and 21 are clearly directed to statutory subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1, 8, 11, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Since claims 2-7, 12-19, and 22 depend from claims 1, 11, and 21, respectively, these claims are also directed to statutory subject matter for at least the reasons given above with respect to claims 1, 11, and 21.

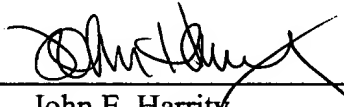
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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